



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Jim Nussle  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee  
309 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6024

March 7, 2006

The Honorable John Spratt  
Ranking Member  
House Budget Committee  
B-71 Canon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6024

Dear Chairman Nussle and Ranking Member Spratt:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2007 House Budget Resolution, we urge you to include \$7.3 billion for Head Start programs.

Head Start programs currently assist over 900,000 children and their families nationwide. If the President's FY07 budget proposal for flat funding Head Start programs is adopted, these programs will have sustained a real decrease of 11% since 2002. Programs are already facing incredible budget constraints that are forcing them to either cut children from their programs or cut services such as program hours, transportation and even teachers. Based on the Congressional Budget Office's estimated increase in the consumer price index, **flat funding the Head Start programs in FY 2007 would result in reducing the number of children served by at least 19,000 in FY 2007.**

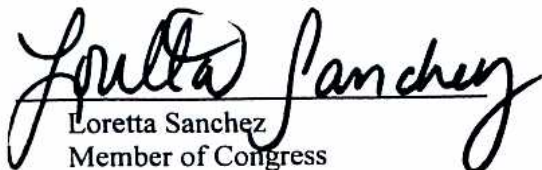
Head Start programs provide comprehensive education to children and their families to combat poverty and improve the richness of the early learning experience. Head Start children are better prepared to learn and have higher self-esteem and social behavior at school entry. They also score higher on school readiness measures such as verbal achievement, perceptual reasoning, and social competence than children who have attended no preschool. Moreover, Head Start children have significantly lower absentee rates and are less likely to be retained in grade during elementary school than non-Head Start children.

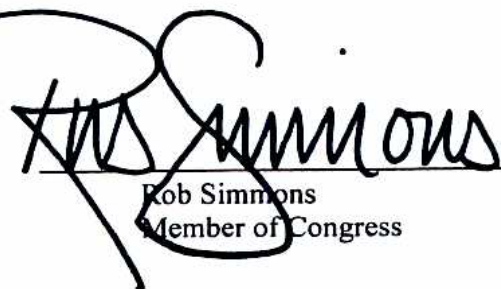
Not only does Head Start provide valuable early education programs, but it also provides health and dental services to children and families who might not otherwise receive them. Studies show that parents who receive these services have decrease feeling of anxiety, depression and illness while their children are 8% more likely to be immunized than children who did not participate in Head Start or preschool programs.

Head Start programs have consistently received praise from parents throughout the country. A 2001 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report shows that 96% of parents were satisfied with how Head Start prepares their child for kindergarten. In addition studies have shown that the economic benefits of Head Start far exceed their costs, with one study showing that for every \$1 spent by taxpayers, they received \$9 in future benefits.

Head Start is an investment in our future that merits adequate funding to continue to provide much needed education and health services to America's children.

Sincerely,

  
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

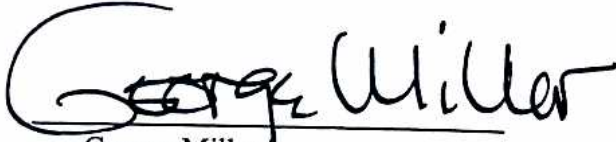
  
Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress



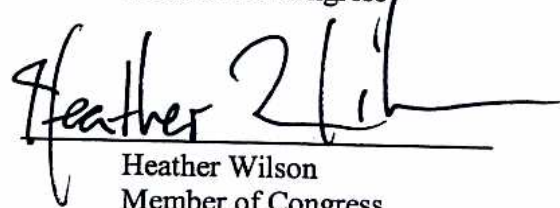
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



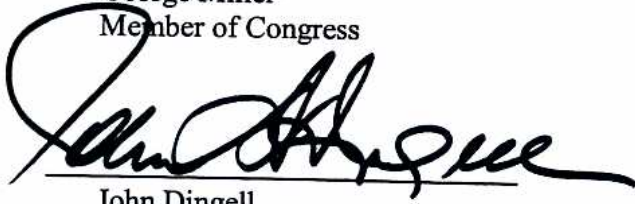
Todd Platts  
Member of Congress



George Miller  
Member of Congress



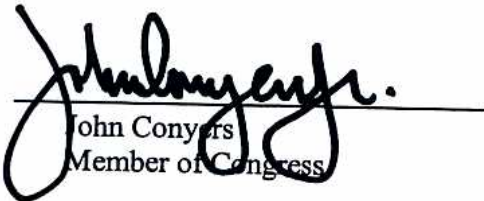
Heather Wilson  
Member of Congress



John Dingell  
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Nancy Johnson  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



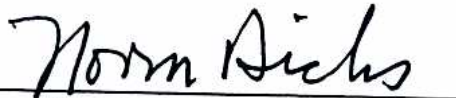
Mark Souder  
Member of Congress



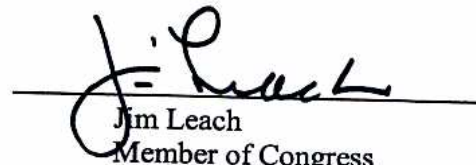
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



Sherwood Boehlert  
Member of Congress



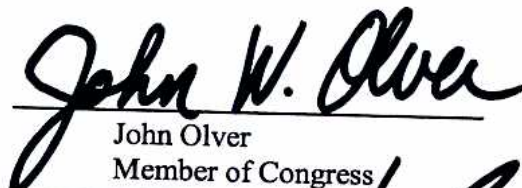
Norm Dicks  
Member of Congress



Jim Leach  
Member of Congress



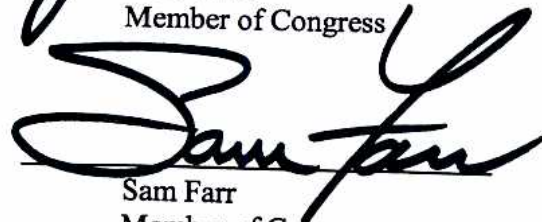
James Moran  
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John Olver  
Member of Congress



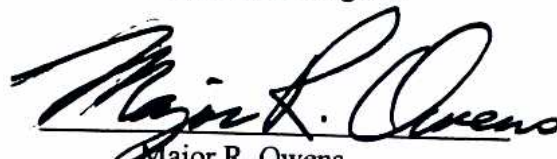
Patrick Kennedy  
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Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



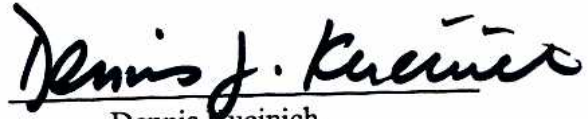
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick  
Member of Congress

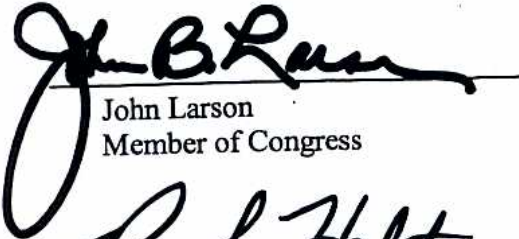


Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress




  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

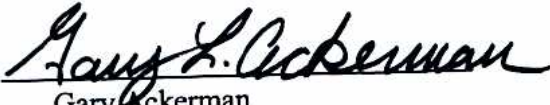
  
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

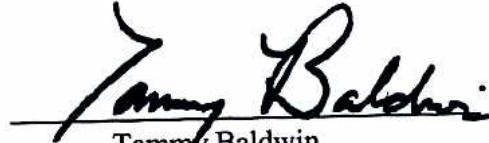
  
John Larson  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

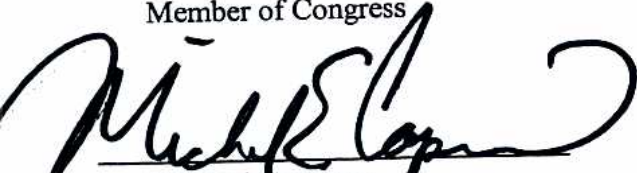
  
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Tammy Baldwin  
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Lloyd Doggett  
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Jane Harman  
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Michael Capuano  
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Mike Honda  
Member of Congress


  
Pete Stark  
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Edolphus Towns  
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Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

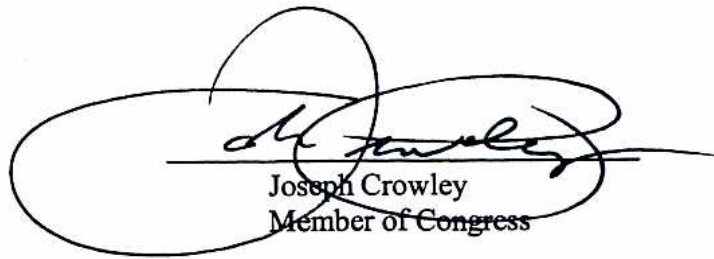
  
Jim McDermott  
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Artur Davis  
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Tom Udall  
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Paul Kanjorski  
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Joseph Crowley  
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Collin Peterson  
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Barbara Lee  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



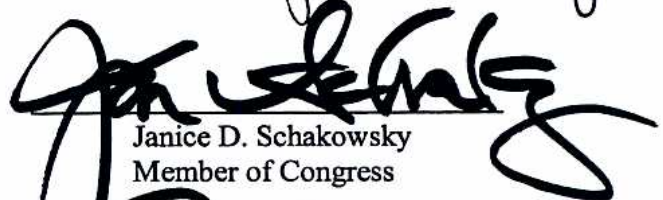
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



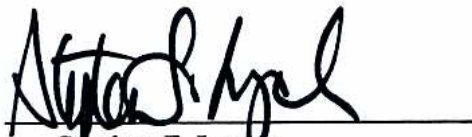
Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress



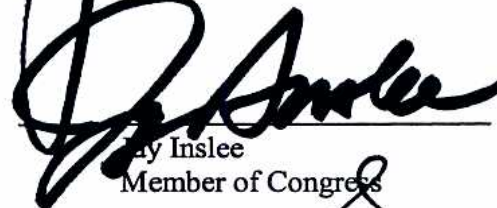
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



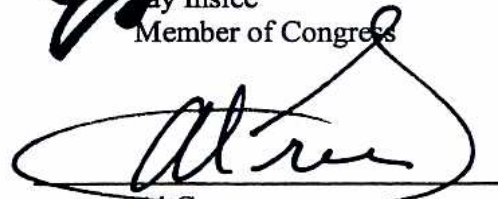
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



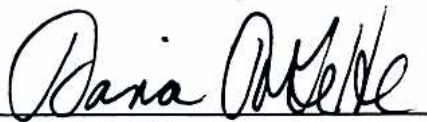
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Diane E. Watson  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



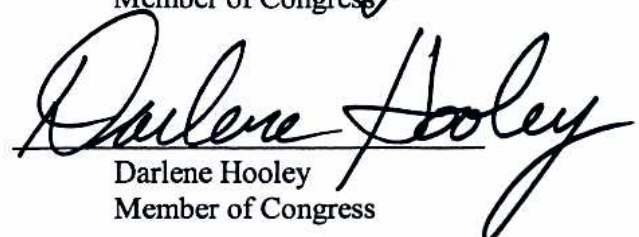
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

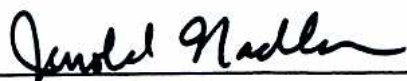


Stephanie Herseth  
Member of Congress



Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

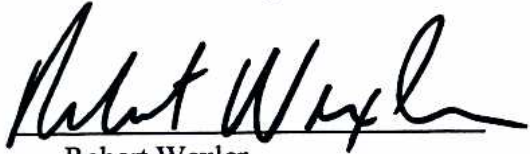




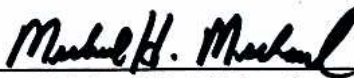
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



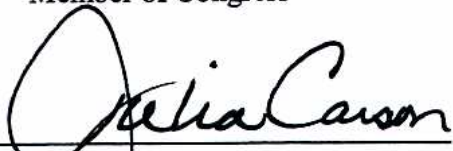
Benjamin L. Cardin  
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Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



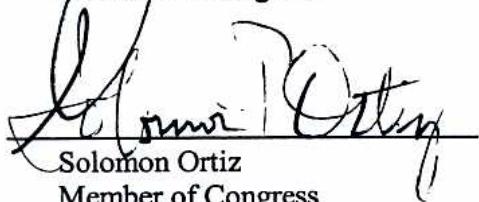
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress



Julia Carson  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



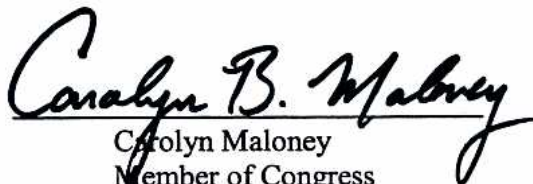
Solomon Ortiz  
Member of Congress



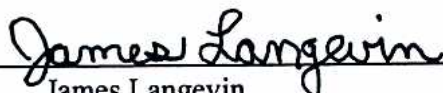
Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress



Barney Frank  
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Carolyn Maloney  
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James Langevin  
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